



## **Arlington Disability Commission Minutes**

Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020

Time: 4:00 pm

Location: 27 Maple Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor HHS Conference Room

Attendees: Commissioners Cynthia DeAngelis (Chair), Darcy Devney, Paul Raia, Karen Mathiasen, Michael Rademacher (Public Works Director)

Absent: Maureen St. Hilaire, Liza Molina, Kerrie Fallon

Guests: Christine Bongiorno (Director of Health & Human Services, Jillian Harvey (DEI Coordinator), Grace Carpenter (Volunteer), Ellen Leigh (Disability Advocate)

### Minutes

1. Call to order 4:04pm Cynthia.
2. Approve minutes- Rademacher motioned, all in favor, accepted.
3. Budget Updates
  - a. Bringing Valeria and Meghan to do community presentation on 4/1 at 7pm
  - b. Create a press release to have community members review transition and implementation plans, including bio of organization and the speakers, provide all details for event, will look to hold it in town hall.
  - c. Send the invite to schools, COA, Facebook, listservs, the select board should be invited as well.
  - d. Format of event- facilitator will present, have tables and chairs for smaller breakout groups to allow groups to discuss and report back on questions.
  - e. Fee for room- add to budget, will revisit budget during this meeting.
4. Committee Updates
  - a. Raia- Election Modernization: Raia is now a member, non-voting
    - i. Parking around election sites- handicap parking for vans is an issue, visually impaired voters go through a difficult process, the height of the stalls is also an issue.
      1. Suggestions to better prep sites: provide additional spaces
      2. For wheelchair users- the height of polling is too high, so we should find out the actual heights.
    - ii. Raia- High School Committee, he has not attended the last several meetings.

1. Carpenter attended a few, to discuss the ramp not being included, but did not address the stairs; the meeting a few weeks ago about the start of construction/grounds but she was not able to park at all and for that reason was unable to attend the meeting. She emailed the principal about to address the parking concern.
  2. Tuesday March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6-7:30pm all members will attend the AHS meeting, 6<sup>th</sup> floor school committee room in the high school, Harvey will coordinate elevator being unlocked, meet at 5:50pm.
5. Follow Up to Special Education Director
  - a. Raia- interested in knowing the specific disabilities of the population, given the 12 categories.
    - i. Saw a statistic that the only impairment they send students out of district for is hearing impaired.
  - b. Raia and DeAngelis will meet with Elmer.
6. Police Chief Community Stakeholder Interview
  - a. DeAngelis reports on being a part of that process.
  - b. Assessment of skills of the chief is first step.
  - c. Second phase included members of the community, all three candidates did well.
    - i. A few noteworthy points: APD has a mental health clinician who goes on calls, Arlington is 1 of 10 departments that do that. Level of understanding of community questions was good and the general sense that the police feel badly about how the community views them in a negative light, they are all very mindful of the atmosphere.
  - d. Last phase takes place with town officials and Chelsea PD Chief.
  - e. Gained insight from other community members and the many hats that cops wear, in addition to learning about the Citizens Police Academy.
7. Devney- No update
8. Town Updates- Rademacher
  - a. Public recs facility in design, he will bring plans for next meeting.
    - i. Parking for employees is a major issue- ADA requirements.
  - b. Study- the town is looking to determine what to do with the bleachers at Spy Pond Field, concrete is falling apart, estimates of \$800,000 to restore, but is it historic? What is its use? Study is to see if restoring and making ADA compliant is best option compared to tearing it down, making the space accessible and add a path around the entire field.
9. DEI Updates- Harvey
  - a. Town Counsel Doug Heim, will come do a training meeting for March or April
    - i. We will for 30minute regular meeting and give Heim remaining 90 minutes to conduct training.
    - ii. Date and time will be determined and shared.
    - iii. Ethics training will be sent out.

10. Chair Updates- DeAngelis

- a. Stella Hair Salon Parking issue- moving parking spot or making changes, will impact Magnolia residents and for neighboring businesses.
- b. Town Meeting- Arlington heights in general and other locations, parking issues.

11. Commission Logistics- DeAngelis

- a. Revisit Budget and how to spend \$3000.
  - i. Re-allocate to different category.
  - ii. Work with facilities to determine what needs funding to improve for ADA requirements.
  - iii. Website- updates need to be made and can be funded.
  - iv. For next meeting- discuss further options; signage, doors, etc.
  - v. Ellen Leigh's app: rates accessibility, put link info on Disability page.

12. Priorities for Next Meeting Agenda

- a. Leigh- app & legislation in MA to prevent service dog fraud.
  - i. Whittemore Park Project issues- tree removal.
- b. Bongiorno & Harvey will determine options for budget use.
- c. Rademacher will discuss his projects more in depth.
- d. Carpenter will share Silent No More at the Regent info, March 6<sup>th</sup> event.

Meeting Adjourned 5:59pm.